

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for creating a job network configuration file that prescribes an execution procedure of a job in an information processing apparatus, the device  
5 comprising:

a template input unit configured to receive a template file including an undefined variable, the template file being prepared in connection with the job network configuration file;

10 a definition file input unit configured to receive a definition file that establishes an association between the variable used in the template file and setting data that is input by an user in connection with a setting of the job network configuration file;

a setting data input unit configured to receive input of the setting data from the user; and

15 a creation processing unit configured to create the job network configuration file in accordance with the definition file and the template file based on the setting data.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the definition file includes  
20 description data that describes contents of the setting data,

and wherein the setting data input unit receives the input interactively using the description data.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the definition file includes  
25 information specifying one or more of a limit value for the variable, order of input of the variable, a condition governing display of a prompt for user input, and a condition governing automatic setting of the variable,

and wherein the setting data input unit performs the input based on the specifying information.

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4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the setting data input unit receives from the user specification of a setting file that includes the setting data and

inputs the setting data from the setting file.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the definition file includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,

5 and wherein the device further comprises an assist file creating unit configured to create as a template for the setting file an assist file that includes the description data and data that indicates the user locations at which the setting data is to be entered.

10 6. A method of supporting creation of a job network configuration file with the aid of a computer, the job network configuration file prescribing an execution procedure of a job in an information processing apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a template file including an undefined variable, the template file  
15 being prepared in connection with the job network configuration file;

(b) receiving a definition file that establishes an association between the variable used in the template file and setting data that is input by an user in connection with a setting of the job network configuration file;

(c) receiving input of the setting data from the user; and

20 (d) creating the job network configuration file in accordance with the definition file and the template file based on the setting data.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the definition file includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,

25 and wherein the step (c) is the step of receiving the input interactively using the description data.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the definition file includes information specifying one or more of a limit value for the variable, order of input of  
30 the variable, a condition governing display of a prompt for user input, and a condition governing automatic setting of the variable,

and wherein the step (c) is the step of performing the input based on the

specifying information.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the step (c) is the step of receiving from the user specification of a setting file that includes the setting data and  
5 inputting the setting data from the setting file.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the definition file includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,  
and wherein the method further comprises the step of creating as a template  
10 for the setting file an assist file that includes the description data and data that indicates the user locations at which the setting data is to be entered.

11. A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, for creating a job network configuration file that prescribes an execution procedure of a  
15 job in an information processing apparatus, the computer program comprising:  
a first code that receives a template file including an undefined variable, the template file being prepared in connection with the job network configuration file;  
a second code that receives definition file that establishes an association between the variable used in the template file and setting data that is input by an user  
20 in connection with a setting of the job network configuration file;  
a third code that receives input of the setting data from the user; and  
a fourth code that creates the job network configuration file in accordance with the definition file and the template file based on the setting data.

25 12. A computer program according to claim 11, wherein the definition file includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,  
and wherein the third code receives the input interactively using the description data.

30 13. A computer program according to claim 11, wherein the definition file includes information specifying one or more of a limit value for the variable, order of input of the variable, a condition governing display of a prompt for user

input, and a condition governing automatic setting of the variable,  
and wherein the third code performs the input based on the specifying  
information.

5           14.     A computer program according to claim 11, wherein the third code  
receives from the user specification of a setting file that includes the setting data and  
inputs the setting data from the setting file.

10           15.     A computer program according to claim 14, wherein the definition  
file includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,  
and wherein the computer program further comprises a fifth code that creates  
as a template for the setting file an assist file that includes the description data and  
data that indicates the user locations at which the setting data is to be entered.

15           16.     A device for creating a job network configuration file that prescribes  
an execution procedure of a job in an information processing apparatus, the device  
comprising:

20           a template file storage unit configured to store a template file including an  
undefined variable, the template file being prepared in connection with the job  
network configuration file;

            a variable definition file storage unit configured to store a variable definition  
file that establishes an association between the variable used in the template file and  
setting data that is input by an user in connection with a setting of the job network  
configuration file; and

25           a job network creation unit configured to receive input of the setting data  
from the user and create the job network configuration file by fixing a value of the  
variable contained in the template file based on the setting data and setting the fixed  
value of the variable in the template file.

30           17.     A device according to claim 16, wherein the variable definition file  
includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,  
and wherein the job network creation unit receives the input interactively

using the description data.

18. A device according to claim 16, wherein the variable definition file includes information specifying one or more of a limit value for the variable, order of  
5 input of the variable, a condition governing display of a prompt for user input, and a condition governing automatic setting of the variable,

and wherein the job network creation unit performs the input based on the specifying information.

10 19. A device according to claim 16, wherein the job network creation unit receives from the user specification of a setting file that includes the setting data and inputs the setting data from the setting file.

20. A device according to claim 19, wherein the variable definition file  
15 includes description data that describes contents of the setting data,

and wherein the job network creation unit creates as a template for the setting file an assist file that includes the description data and data that indicates the user locations at which the setting data is to be entered.

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